

**NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TUESDAY, April 19, 2016**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Beth Manke called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

II. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Beth Manke, Eileen Francolino, Mary Udice, Sue Reniewicz, Sarah Jorgensen, Bill DeBlasio, Ed Marchion, Mary Beth Kelliher, James Cultrera, Don Woods

Board Members Absent: Jen Crowley

Staff Present: Superintendent William DeMaio

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF February 16, 2016

Eileen Francolino made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2016 meeting. Don Woods seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 10-0 vote.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Chris Nascimento of 175 Dowd Street, Newington is member of Portuguese Club and also Treasurer for the Clubs' Adult Soccer League and **Albert Costa of 155 Fairlane Drive, Wethersfield, CT** is the president of the Portuguese Club, located at 730 North Mountain Road, Newington. They would like the Commission to reconsider the Martin Kellogg field usage fee to remain at \$50 per Sunday until the clubs finances increase. Mr. Nascimento mentioned that the club has been paying the \$50 fee for many years. The field usage fee has increased to \$150 per 3 hours with less than 90% of town residency on the team. There are 8 to 10 players per team that are Newington residents

Don Woods stated that the cost to line the field with labor and materials is approximately \$150.

Don Woods asked Mr. Costa why Parks & Recreation should consider this group over others to give a reduced fee.

Mr. Costa responded: He offers the Portuguese Club Hall rental free of charge to the Newington Police Department and Fire Department.

Don Woods asked if the Portuguese Club has considered charging their players a fee.

Mr. Nascimento responded: The Portuguese Club uses fundraising to raise money and local businesses for sponsorship. Players also pay membership dues to the Club.

Don Woods asked how many players on a team on a weekly basis?

Mr. Nascimento responded: There are 60-65 players and 20-22 players per team, 8-10 per team are Newington residents.

James Cultrera asked if the Portuguese Club plays teams from out of town, if so do the other teams contribute?

Mr. Nascimento responded: The out of town teams pick up the costs for their home field.

Mary Udice asked how many games per season?

Mr. Nascimento responded: There are 18, 9 are home games.

MOTION: A motion was made by Don Woods to table this for further discussion Sue Reniewicz seconded the motion; all were in favor with a 10-0 vote

V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS

From the Superintendent, Bill DeMaio:

Thank you letter from the Emmanuel Christian Academy for usage of the Mortensen Gym and Soccer fields. The letter also recognizes Eric O'Neil and the entire staff for their hard work.

VI. SUMMARY REPORT for February and March 2016

Eileen Francolino asked Superintendent DeMaio if there was much feedback from closing

Boundless Playground at Mill Pond Park during the April school vacation.

Superintendent DeMaio responded: One resident called and mentioned if they could let the public know about the closure. Superintendent DeMaio put the information out to the public via the Town's website and Facebook. The public was thankful for the communication. Superintendent DeMaio thought it was best to get this work done before summer camp begins. Superintendent DeMaio had to replace the existing temporary fencing with something more substantial and secure to keep the public out of the area because of recent trespassing during construction. Superintendent DeMaio will be hiring someone to stay in the area once the rubber surface is put down because that takes some time to set.

Beth Manke asked if the park will be ready for summer camp time.

Superintendent DeMaio is looking at a completion date of approximately May 27th if everything stays on schedule.

Eileen Francolino asked about the new testing process for summer employment with the town.

Superintendent DeMaio is having the staff institute a written test of math questions and aptitude skills. The aquatics department will also have a practical test along with the other tests.

Sue Reniewicz asked if summer employees have background checks done.

Superintendent DeMaio responded once offered a job, everyone gets a background check.

Tree Warden Report

A lot of tree work has been done. Small crew, doing a great job.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Fee Waiver for Girls's All Star Softball Games:

Kevin Mason is the coach of the NHS Summer Softball Team. He is looking for a fee waiver to minimize his expenses for the All Star Game on August 13, 2016. Superintendent DeMaio mentioned this Commission supports youth sports. Superintendent DeMaio has no problem with a reduction or waiver in fee. The game will attract crowds upwards to 100 or more people which can ultimately bring business to the town. The current fee for the field is \$300.00, Kevin Mason will be doing all the maintenance to the field so no Parks & Recreation staff will be required.

MOTION: A motion was made by Eileen Francolino to waive the fee for the girls All Star Softball Games. Sue Reniewicz seconded the motion; all were in favor with a 10-0 vote.

IX. Reports

Opening of Mill Pond Tennis Courts/ Tennis Contract

In negotiations to contract with Robert Dean at Mill Pond Tennis Courts. He will supervise all events and provide daily maintenance of the tennis courts. Superintendent DeMaio received a grant from United States Tennis Association. The 1st and 2nd graders will get tennis lessons, tennis play and family day during the summer. There will be a company coming in next week to prepare the courts. The Mill Pond Tennis courts will be opened soon.

Mill Pond Playground Update

Currently digging up the sub surface and putting drainage in a circular way around the facility and filling with 1" stone. The connecting drain pipes will have a flow of water coming away from the area. This winter, three catch basins were installed outside of the playground. These catch basins catch water that was coming from the baseball field toward the playground. Also, in the process of rebuilding a wall next to one of the pieces of playground equipment that has not worked in the past. The wall was pushed up against it and has never been able to swing. The piece of playground equipment will be taken out and rebuilt to work properly again. There will be a rededication for the playground during the Extravaganza.

Eileen asked if the standing water will disappear once this job is completed.

Superintendent DeMaio responded: Yes that will be finished off and the water will swell into the catch basins.

Churchill Park Update

Currently, the spending to fill in the concrete and expansion joints in the pool is at approximately \$47,000. The concrete is shaled on walls and floor of pool. There will be an air test done to pipes. The wading pool appears to be leaking and may not open this summer. That will be determined in time.

Eileen Francolino asked if Mill Pond Pool was leaking too.

Superintendent DeMaio responded: Mill Pond Pool is in bad shape as well. The floor of pool is crumbling. Superintendent DeMaio will be analyzing the situation and continue patching areas to have pools open. Superintendent DeMaio would like to open both pools this summer. There are approximately 10,000 visits to each pool during the summer months.

Beth Manke asked if you have to be a resident to use the pools.

Superintendent DeMaio responded: Yes or you have to be accompanied by a town resident.

Don Woods asked the Councilors Tim Manke and Diana Serra, who were both at the meeting.

How serious is the council listening to and considering the issues regarding these pools?

Councilor Manke responded: He would like to visit these pools and assess the situation.

James Cultrera mentioned most of the problems of the pool are not able to be seen.

Beth Manke mentioned to have other staff members on hand that know ins and outs of the pipes, and can also speak about the underlying issues of the pool to the Council Members during their visit.

RecTrac Computer Update

New computer program for the Parks & Recreation Department. Superintendent DeMaio is working on getting a lap top or Chrome Book at each pool. The Fobs (pool passes) have been

distributed and when they are swiped the persons info and picture will come up on the screen. Life magazine coming in the next week the new brochure will be in it which was developed with the RecTrac program. RecTrac wrote a special program that will help with the brochure format.

Bill DeBlasio asked if will there be a direct contact for game scheduling.

Superintendent DeMaio responded: possibly by next year scheduling online will be available.

Sue Reniewicz asked about future trips, she noticed not too many are being held thru Parks & Recreation anymore.

Superintendent DeMaio responded: Trips are being resurrected, he noticed that the amount of trips has decreased over the years as well and he will be looking into that.

Don Woods mentioned that Superintendent DeMaio has made a great accomplishment of getting the RecTrac computer program in place during his first 10 months at Newington. This program has been a great need for the department for years. The \$100,000 program was donated to the Parks & Recreation Department.

Motorcycle Madness

This is a very exciting event. West Hill Automotive has donated \$200 and sponsoring beer tent. In the process of developing and writing radio spots, there are 50 at this time. Haymond Law maybe donating another 50 spots on the River, ESPN and Country Station. It will put Newington Parks & Recreation on the map. Variety of food trucks will be there, Tacos, Pizza, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Ice Cream and Cupcake Trucks. There will be motorcycles raffles and In the Groove is the band that will be playing at this event.

Eileen Francolino asked Superintendent DeMaio if he could email the Commission a list of jobs to volunteer for the day.

Superintendent DeMaio responded: He would like the Commission on the information table; he thought it would be the perfect public relations spot for everyone. The time for volunteers would be 5 pm to 8 pm.

Summer Concerts & Magnet Giveaways

Summer Concert Series Magnets have been printed. There will be 11 concerts coming up this summer starting May 19th. The 102nd Army Band will be playing the Sunday before the Extravaganza from 2 – 3:30 pm. The week prior to the Extravaganza will have several activities. Wristbands give-a-ways will be on Facebook and the radio for the Extravaganza.

Car Wash - \$111

Ed Sternberg sent a check for \$111.00. People are using the number, 71616, at the car wash and people are talking about this on Facebook.

Ice Cream Vendor

Last year Nick's Ice cream gave a \$100 donation, this year he gave the Parks & Recreation Department \$1,500 and if the other ice cream vendor does not participate, Nick's Ice Cream will donate another \$1,500 towards the fireworks. Nick's Ice Cream is permitted to sell at Clem Lemire, Churchill Park and Mill Pond Park.

Fishing Derby – April 23, 2016

This Saturday, registration is 8:30 am. Fishing will be from 9:00 am to Noon. Cabella's donated a bunch of items. Superintendent DeMaio spoke with Phil Knowlton and asked him to move the time for Soccer's opening day to after noon time next year, in-case some of the players would like to participate. Prizes will be given away every 15 minutes. Boyscout Troop 316 will be selling coffee and cakes as a fundraiser. The Shriner's Clowns will be walking around during the Derby.

Summer Brochure

Coming out in the next Newington Life.

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Rose Lyons 46 Elton Drive annual appeal to have the walkway at the end of Elton Drive from the Senior Center to the High School be cleaned up for the spring and Extravaganza.

Rose also mentioned on another resident's behalf the Beacon Park may need some attention.

Don mentioned there is a resident on Brace Road that is concerned about the mosquitos and asked if there were any treatments being done.

Superintendent DeMaio responded: That could be State regulated, at this time no plans to treat the area.

Extra: Tabled discussion regarding the Portuguese Club field usage fee.

Superintendent DeMaio mentioned that for many years there has been a long standing Board policy of 90% residence and 10% out of town. Superintendent DeMaio finds it very difficult to waive an adult fee when there are more than six other adult teams that pay the same amount of money to use fields in this town. The Parks & Recreation Department will stick by this policy regarding adult fees. Martin Kellogg field was completed first this year because of football practice this year.

MOTION: A motion was made by Don Woods to take the Portuguese Club Soccer field usage request off the table. Sarah Jorgensen seconded the motion; all were in favor with a 10-0 vote.

MOTION: A motion was made by Don Woods to add the Portuguese Club Soccer field usage fee request to the Agenda. Sarah Jorgensen seconded the motion; all were in favor with a 10-0 vote.

MOTION: A motion was made by Don Woods that the Parks & Recreation Department cannot waive fees for adult programs in the Town of Newington in accordance with our existing policy. Sarah Jorgensen seconded the motion; all were in favor with a 10-0 vote.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion was made by Mary Udice to adjourn. Sue Reniewicz seconded the motion; all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm with a 10-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Jay